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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for generating a fluid flow, said apparatus comprising:

- 5 -a displacement pump
 -- with at least one flow vessel of deformable lumen, which
 serves to conduct a fluid,
 -- with a pump drive for producing displacement motions of
 the flow vessel which deform the lumen and cause the
10 fluid flow, and
 -- with a support means for holding the flow vessel; and
 -a measuring arrangement responsive to the displacement
 motions performed by the flow vessel,
 -- with a pressure sensor for sensing a static pressure in
15 the fluid and providing a sensor signal representative
 of the displacement motions, and
 -- with evaluation electronics for the sensor signal.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation
20 electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a flow rate estimate representative of an
instantaneous volume flow rate of the fluid.

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation
25 electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a first measurement signal representative of a
frequency of the displacement motions.

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation
30 electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a volume estimate representative of a totalized
volume of fluid delivered.

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5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor signal a status signal representative of a current
5 operational status of the displacement pump.
6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor signal a second measurement signal representative of a
10 suction head of the apparatus.
7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pump drive is a rotary pump drive.
- 15 8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pump drive is a linear pump drive.
9. A sampler with an apparatus for generating a fluid flow, said apparatus comprising:
20 -a displacement pump
-- with at least one flow vessel of deformable lumen, which serves to conduct a fluid,
-- with a pump drive for producing displacement motions of the flow vessel which deform the lumen and cause the
25 fluid flow, and
-- with a support means for holding the flow vessel; and
-a measuring arrangement responsive to the displacement motions performed by the flow vessel,
-- with a pressure sensor for sensing a static pressure in
30 the fluid and providing a sensor signal representative of the displacement motions, and
-- with evaluation electronics for the sensor signal.

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10. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a flow rate estimate representative of an
5 instantaneous volume flow rate of the fluid.

11. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a first measurement signal representative of a
10 frequency of the displacement motions.

12. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a volume estimate representative of a totalized
15 volume of fluid delivered.

13. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a status signal representative of a current
20 operational status of the displacement pump.

14. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a second measurement signal representative of a
25 suction head of the apparatus.

15. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pump drive
is a rotary pump drive.

30 16. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pump drive
is a linear pump drive.

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17. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein said Sampler is a mobile Sampler

18. Sampler as claimed in claim 9, wherein said Sampler is
5 a portable Sampler

19. Apparatus for generating a fluid flow, said apparatus comprising:

- a displacement pump
- 10 -- with at least one flow vessel of deformable lumen, which serves to conduct a fluid,
- with a pump drive for producing displacement motions of the flow vessel which deform the lumen and cause the fluid flow, and
- 15 -- with a support means for holding the flow vessel,
--- the flow vessel being compressed by the pump drive in operation temporarily and in sections and forced against the support means such that the support means is elastically strained; and
- 20 -a measuring arrangement responsive to the displacement motions performed by the flow vessel,
- with a strain sensor for sensing a strain of the support means and providing a sensor signal representative of the displacement motions performed by the flow vessel,
- 25 and
- with evaluation electronics for the sensor signal.

20. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the evaluation electronics are being operable to derive from
30 the sensor signal a flow rate estimate representative of an instantaneous volume flow rate of the fluid.

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21. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the evaluation electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor signal a first measurement signal representative of a frequency of the displacement motions.

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22. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the evaluation electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor signal a volume estimate representative of a totalized volume of fluid delivered.

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23. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the evaluation electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor signal a status signal representative of a current operational status of the displacement pump.

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24. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the pump drive is a rotary pump drive.

25. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the pump drive is a linear pump drive.

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26. A sampler with an apparatus for generating a fluid flow, said apparatus comprising:

- a displacement pump

25 -- with at least one flow vessel of deformable lumen, which serves to conduct a fluid,

-- with a pump drive for producing displacement motions of the flow vessel which deform the lumen and cause the fluid flow, and

30 -- with a support means for holding the flow vessel,

--- the flow vessel being compressed by the pump drive in operation temporarily and in sections and forced

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against the support means such that the support means
is elastically strained; and

- a measuring arrangement responsive to the displacement
motions performed by the flow vessel,

5 -- with a strain sensor for sensing a strain of the support
means and providing a sensor signal representative of
the displacement motions performed by the flow vessel,
and

-- with evaluation electronics for the sensor signal.

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27. Sampler as claimed in claim 26, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a flow rate estimate representative of an
instantaneous volume flow rate of the fluid.

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28. Sampler as claimed in claim 26, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a first measurement signal representative of a
frequency of the displacement motions.

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29. Sampler as claimed in claim 26, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a volume estimate representative of a totalized
volume of fluid delivered.

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30. Sampler as claimed in claim 26, wherein the evaluation
electronics are being operable to derive from the sensor
signal a status signal representative of a current
operational status of the displacement pump.

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31. Sampler as claimed in claim 26, wherein the pump drive
is a rotary pump drive.

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32. Sampler as claimed in claim 26, wherein the pump drive is a linear pump drive.

5 33. Sampler as claimed in claim 26, wherein said Sampler is a mobile Sampler

34. Sampler as claimed in claim 26, wherein said Sampler is a portable Sampler

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35. Method of monitoring an apparatus serving to generate a fluid flow and comprising:

- a displacement pump

-- with at least one flow vessel of deformable lumen, which serves to conduct a fluid,

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-- with a pump drive for producing displacement motions of the flow vessel which deform the lumen and cause the fluid flow,

-- with a drive motor for the pump drive, and

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-- with a support means for holding the flow vessel; and

- a measuring arrangement responsive to the displacement motions of the flow vessel and comprising a pressure sensor for sensing a static pressure in the fluid,

said method comprising the steps of:

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- causing drive motions of the drive motor for producing the displacement motions of the flow vessel;

- sensing the pressure with the pressure sensor for generating a sensor signal representative of the displacement motions; and

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- deriving from the sensor signal a status signal signaling a current operational status of the apparatus.

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36. Method of monitoring a sampler with an apparatus serving to generate a fluid flow, said apparatus comprising:

- a displacement pump

5 -- with at least one flow vessel of deformable lumen, which serves to conduct a fluid,

-- with a pump drive for producing displacement motions of the flow vessel which deform the lumen and cause the fluid flow,

10 -- with a drive motor for the pump drive, and

-- with a support means for holding the flow vessel; and

- a measuring arrangement responsive to the displacement motions of the flow vessel and comprising a pressure sensor for sensing a static pressure in the fluid,

15 said method comprising the steps of:

- causing drive motions of the drive motor for producing the displacement motions of the flow vessel;

- sensing the pressure with the pressure sensor for generating a sensor signal representative of the

20 displacement motions; and

- deriving from the sensor signal a status signal signaling a current operational status of the apparatus.